

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 TRSE-00 AF-10

DHA-02 /109 W

-----126881 201342Z /41

R 200922Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1127

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL GOTEBOG UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 3034

ALSO FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SW

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: SWEDEN'S MULTILATERAL INTERESTS

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REFS: (A) STATE 159747, (B) 76 STOCKHOLM 1208,
(C) 76 STOCKHOLM 893

1. REFERENCE (B), WHICH RESPONDED TO STATE (76) 37591 REGARDING SWEDEN'S ATTITUDES, INTERESTS, OBJECTIVES, AND OPERATIONAL TECHNIQUES ON MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS, REMAINS A SUBSTANTIALLY CORRECT DESCRIPTION. SINCE ITS PREPARATION

IN MARCH 1976, CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT IN SWEDEN AND THE US HAVE LED TO A NEW TONE IN OUR RELATIONS, HOWEVER, WHICH SHOULD ASSIST THE EMBASSY, THE DEPARTMENT AND US DELEGATIONS IN REPRESENTATIONS ON MULTILATERAL SUBJECTS.

2. THE FIRST NON-SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT IN OVER FORTY YEARS WHICH ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOVERNING SWEDEN LAST FALL UNDER THORBJORN FALLDIN HAS NOT INSTITUTED ANY MAJOR POLICY CHANGES: ONLY SOME SLIGHT SHIFTS IN EMPHASIS HAVE EMERGED. BUT THE PRECEPTIBLE TREND IN THE IMPROVEMENT IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS BEGUN LAST YEAR WHILE THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WERE STILL IN POWER, SIGNALLED BY THE US VISIT OF THE KING AND THE STOCKHOLM VISIT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER, HAS STRENGTHENED. THE JUST-COMPLETED VISIT OF THE SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER, KAREN SODER, TO THE US WAS AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS, FOR EXAMPLE. EQUALLY IMPORTANT, SOME OF THE MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES OF PRESIDENT CARTER, NOTABLY IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS, HAVE BEEN WELCOMED BY THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT. AFTER A DECADE OF DIFFERENCES, THE US AND SWEDEN ARE AGAIN LARGELY IN THE SAME CAMP ON MANY MAJOR QUESTIONS. (SEE STOCKHOLM 1367 AND STATE 142712 OUTLINING OUR POLICY REVIEW ASSESSMENT FOR ELABORATION OF THESE POINTS.) COINCIDENTAL WITH THESE CHANGES, SENIOR PERSONNEL SHIFTS WITHIN THE SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTRY--NOTABLY THE APPOINTMENT AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF LEIF LEIFLAND--
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SHOULD WORK TO OUR ADVANTAGE IN TERMS OF ACCESS ON IMPORTANT AND URGENT ISSUES. LEIFLAND IS EXTREMELY CAPABLE, HIGHLY MOTIVATED, AND A FRIEND OF THE US. HIS RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON REINFORCED HIS ACQUAINTANCE WITH MEMBERS OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IN A VERY POSITIVE WAY.

3. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE CAN YET DETERMINE IF THE IMPROVEMENT TOUCHED ON ABOVE WILL AFFECT OUR ABILITY TO INFLUENCE SHIFTS IN SWEDISH POLICY IN OUR DIRECTION WHERE THEY PRESENTLY ARE DIVERGENT. DIFFERENCES REMAIN, PARTICULARLY ON MANY OF THE MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC QUESTIONS WHICH ARE CONVENIENTLY SUMMED UP BY THE PHRASE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. WE CAN EXPECT THESE DIFFERENCES TO PERSIST BECAUSE IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE TO SWEDEN'S POLITICAL ADVANTAGE WITH THE LDCS TO PURSUE ITS PRESENT POLICIES. GENERALLY SPEAKING, WE BELIEVE THAT MANY US AND SWEDISH POSITIONS ARE DRAWING CLOSER, AND WE EXPECT OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION IN A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC AREAS TO INCREASE. WE REPEAT THE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION IN REF B FOR HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS ANNUALLY, AND THIS YEAR WE ARE PARTICULARLY HOPEFUL THAT

AMBASSADOR YOUNG WILL ACCEPT THE GOS INVITATION TO COME
TO SWEDEN.

4. THE EMBASSY'S MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS OFFICER IS
ECONOMIC COUNSELOR ROBERT SHERWOOD AND THE ALTERNATE
MLO IS POLITICAL COUNSELOR PAUL CANNEY.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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